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# U.S. Must Rebuild Security

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**T**HE PRIMARY role of government is to protect its citizens; their lives, liberty and property. Ironically, in recent years through overzealous implementation of laws intended to protect against abuse of investigative procedures, our nation's security agencies, the CIA and the FBI, have been crippled and hog-tied.



The Left (and hangers-on), pressing a popular assault against authority, did terrible damage — especially to the CIA: agency personnel were berated with glee by most of the media, they became whipping boys for political opportunists; budgets were slashed, operational procedures restricted, covert agents were exposed in life threatening circumstances. In general, CIA operations were critically impaired and the country's self-defense mechanisms ground to a near-stop.

Naturally, Soviet agents seized this opportunity: In the United States the KGB had a field-day; elsewhere in the West (and even more so in "less developed" Third World countries) they've enjoyed an absolutely romping intelligence-gathering picnic practically unopposed. To quote Arnold Beichman (Policy Review, Winter 1981): "What a cushy job it must be today to run the Soviet KGB, the U.S.S.R. secret police and espionage agency. there is longevity and job security.... Better yet, Yuri Andropov, who runs the KGB, sits on the Politburo secure in the knowledge that his once redoubtable adversaries, the CIA and the FBI, have for the last seven years been so weakened that they are no longer serious competition."

Like others interested in such matters I've worried about this, never knowingly running into an actual case until about a year ago

tially, in an affair that though minor as these things go nearly cost a brave man (not anyone's agent) his life: it did cause him physical and psychological pain and financial loss.

Although the overall operation involved a far-off conflict the incident began in Boston; while controlled at higher levels — a low level local KGB hack triggered it.

Theory is one thing; contact is a more convincing teacher: A dawning, then a shock (like the first time long range rifle bullets zip by your head... What's that? Mosquitoes?... then the realization that someone is trying to kill you): KGB and other anti-Western agents are out there working under the best imaginable conditions, with great advantage, to kill the effective functioning of free societies. And we'd better face up to it.

Some thoughts: we have to revitalize the CIA, pump money into it, raise its morale, remove unreasonable restrictions that prevent it (and the FBI) from functioning efficiently; they're our primary defense-line, and terribly weakened. Mr. Casey, the new CIA Director, faces a difficult task: there will be people trying to block revitalization; we can't afford the luxury of delay.

One key U.S. security deficiency is in CIA counterintelligence. That the agency has been penetrated is common knowledge. Covert agents have been exposed (some killed) as a result of despicable acts of self-seeking "journalists" and irresponsible publishers. Communist "disinformation" went virtually unquestioned during the Carter administration, today's media — especially National Public Radio — still give it excessive publicity and (hence) credibility. Those who now scream over U.S. technicians in El Salvador, and no doubt can be depended on to rise in anger if we should ship arms to Afghan nationalists or Unitas patriots in Angola — but never object to the tens of thousands of Soviet bloc

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but the American people were led down the garden path once by these types, to our everlasting shame and sorrow, and it is likely they'll heed more mature advice this trip.

That America paid a high price for shackling of the CIA by well-meaning liberal-pressured congressional action, ivory tower judicial interpretation and naive Carter administration executive order is slowly seeping into the public consciousness — too slowly. That others not so well meaning have utilized the difficult position of our security organizations has hardly been mentioned at all.

On the ground CIA covert operations (overseas) are vital to support our formal military arms and to effect national policy; effective CIA internal (U.S.) operations also must be facilitated. The CIA is struggling (about 75 percent understaffed) to combat the shocking number of KGB and KGB controlled operatives in the U.S.; include every enemy agent from high-level mole to part-timer and you're talking about thousands.

Counterintelligence (Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine) has always played an important role in national defense and it still does; in this age, CIA and FBI counterintelligence is critical. Again quoting Beichman's illuminating article, "Newton S. Miller, former chief of operations in the counterintelligence staff of the CIA under James Angleton, recently...told us that neither the CIA nor the FBI neutralizes Soviet and Soviet-bloc intelligence activity in the U.S. There are even people who believe that the CIA has been 'turned around.'"

To what degree this may be true I'm not qualified to say. But we do have a problem of lack of trained agents (numbers), and those we do have need to know that they won't have the whistle blown on them by Institute For Policy Studies types or other leftist self-proclaimed guardians of